

*Washington, DC* -- During a March 30 Congressional hearing, FBI Director Robert Mueller indicated that the Bureau would reconsider an earlier decision to exclude the City of Newburgh from the list of possible locations for an expanded FBI field office which the agency is currently seeking to relocate from Goshen. The next day, however, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) received a letter, dated March 21, from the FBI's Regional Director indicating that the Bureau's decision to exclude the City of Newburgh as a possible site for the new facility would stand. Hinchey today sent a letter to Mueller seeking clarification to the contradictory responses and reiterating his strong support for the FBI's relocation to the City of Newburgh.

"I appreciate the FBI director indicating his willingness to reconsider the FBI's prior decision to exclude the City of Newburgh from area delineated for the relocation of the agency's Goshen facility. Since his statement in the Congressional hearing contradicts other recent statements from the FBI, it is important that the Director clarify his agency's position on this matter," said Hinchey. "Moving the FBI office to the City of Newburgh would help send a strong message that the federal government is committed for the long-term to reducing the crime and gang violence in that struggling community, which has attracted national attention in recent years."

On March 31, Hinchey's office received the letter dated March 21, which contradicted what Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) was told during the March 30 congressional hearing. Hinchey sought clarification from the FBI Regional Director who indicated that the Bureau's decision to leave Newburgh off the list was final. Hinchey is now seeking clarification from Mueller.

The full text of Hinchey's [letter](#) to Mueller follows.

April 19, 2011

The Honorable Robert S. Mueller III, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)  
U.S. Department of Justice  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Mueller:

I am writing as a follow-up to my February 28 letter to you regarding the FBI's proposed relocation of New York Field Office's Hudson Valley Resident Agency (HVRA). As I noted in my prior correspondence, I am strongly supportive of the FBI relocating the HVRA offices from Goshen to the City of Newburgh, which I believe would be tremendously helpful in combating the high incidence of drug and gang violence in New York's most dangerous small city. The HVRA's relocation to Newburgh has been supported by Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Orange County Executive Edward Diana, the Orange County Legislature, and the City of Newburgh.

I appreciated your comments to Senator Schumer during recent Congressional hearings noting that your agency would reconsider the delineated area for the HVRA office relocation and would consider locations in the City of Newburgh. However, the FBI's Regional Director personally indicated to me that the FBI would not include the City of Newburgh in its delineated area due to the fact that the City of Newburgh is in a different Congressional District than the one in which the HVRA is currently located. According to the General Services Administration (GSA), the FBI has instructed GSA only to look at properties within the 19th Congressional District, which does not include the City of Newburgh.

I would appreciate you clarifying the FBI's position on the inclusion of the City of Newburgh in the delineated area for the HVRA relocation and also request an explanation of the legal basis for the apparent decision thus far that the HVRA cannot be relocated in a different Congressional District, despite broad support for doing so.

Relocating the HVRA offices to Newburgh would be an important and meaningful step toward improving the safety of our entire region. I look forward to your response and appreciate your personal attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Maurice D. Hinchey